

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 remain in the application for further prosecution.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Independent claims 1 and 23 include the limitations that eth comparing of a disturbance signal with a pre-event signal occurs on either “a plurality of time scales” (claim 1) or “multiple time scales” (claim 23). In other words, the disturbance signal and pre-event signal are evaluated over differing time periods.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,796,259 to Dickmader (“Dickmader”) does not disclose such a limitation. Dickmader discloses comparing signals from a first cycle to signals from a second cycle. *See*, Abstract. There is no disclosure in Dickmader of measuring the signals in multiple time scales. Dickmader only discloses measuring the signals in a single time scale. Therefore, for at least this reason, independent claims 1 and 23 and their dependents are believed to be allowable over Dickmader.

Independent claim 31 requires that the system compute a confidence factor for the determined direction. Dickmader does not provide any disclosure of computing a confidence factor. In Dickmader, the controller 22 computes only the direction. It does not provide any confidence factor at all. Thus, claim 31 and its dependent claim are believed to be allowable over Dickmader.

Independent claims 14 and 33 are directed to a system and a method of determining the location and cause of a disturbance in an electrical power distribution plant. The system of claim 14 includes the limitation of a circuit monitor that “computes a confidence factor for the

direction of the disturbance event.” The method of claim 33 includes “combining confidence values from a plurality of networked metering locations...and expressing a confidence in that analysis.”

U.S. Pat. No. 5,808,902 to Levert (“Levert”) does not disclose combining confidence values from a plurality of metering locations. Levert is directed to detect power quality or disturbance events and then relaying information regarding the disturbance event to a central location. *See*, Abstract. The different power disturbances are characterized according to various parameters. *Id.* However, there is no mention of the different parameters or signals being assigned confidence values. Levert does not disclose obtaining a confidence value for the power disturbances that are measured. Because independent claims 14 and 33 requires obtaining a confidence value, they are believed to be allowable over Levert. For at least this reason, their dependent claims are also believed to be allowable.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dickmader. Claim 10 is dependent on claim 1, and therefore, includes all of the limitations of claim 1. For the reason set forth above with respect to claim 1, Dickmader is not believed to disclose the limitation of “comparing a disturbance event signal with a pre-event signal on a plurality of time scales.” For at least this reason, claim 10 is believed to be allowable over the prior art.

Independent claim 16 includes the limitation that the branch circuit monitor “calculates a confidence factor for the disturbance direction.” As stated above in reference to claims 1 and 33, it is the Applicant’s belief that neither Dickmader nor Levert disclose calculating a confidence

factor. In order to prove a *prima facie* case of obviousness, each and every one of the claim limitations must be disclosed in the prior art references. Because neither Dickmander nor Levert, alone or in combination, disclose calculating a confidence factor, independent claim 16 and its dependents are believed to be allowable over the combination of Dickmander and Levert.

Claim 30 is dependent upon claim 23, and therefore, includes the limitation of measuring the disturbance event signal in multiple time scales. As stated previously, with respect to claim 23, Dickmander does not disclose such a feature. It is the Applicant's belief that Levert also does not disclose such a feature. Levert discloses a method for detecting disturbance events and for conveying the information regarding the disturbances to a central location. There is no disclosure in Levert for measuring the signals on multiple time scales. As stated above, in order to prove a *prima facie* case of obviousness, each and every limitation of the claim must be disclosed. Because neither Dickmander nor Levert disclose the limitation of measuring the disturbance on multiple time scales, claim 30 is believed to be allowable over the combination of Dickmander and Levert.

Conclusion

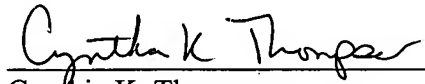
The Applicants believe the claims are in condition for allowance, and action towards that end is earnestly solicited.

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If any matters may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number shown.

Respectfully submitted,

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